GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:10
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
CELLULAR SERVICES
MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT;T. GOVINDAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have equipped the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) with adequate resources to meet the challenges of private cellular operators/companies by making more attractiveterms to its subscribers like reducing tariff charges, security deposit amount, rate of incoming call etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of subscribers likely to be increased as a result thereof;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve its cellular/mobile service;

(e) whether MTNL propose to make free incoming calls on mobile telephones; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 10 FOR 23rd JULY, 2001 REGARDING CELLULAR SERVICES

(a) & (b): BSNL and MTNL are profitable companies having major market share in the telecom sector.They are competent to fix competitive tariff packages within the parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

(c) MTNL has modified the tariff structure on 27th June,2001 as indicated in the Annexure. Consequent to modifications, the registration for new cellular connections has picked up in MTNL.As against 4 to 5 registrations per day each in Delhi & Mumbai earlier, the number of registrations has increased to about 40 per day in Delhi and 55 per day in Mumbai.

BSNLhas started its prepaid card service in April, 2001. Consequent to this the number of subscribers has increased from 300 to 4000.

(d) MTNL has initiated following steps to improve the cellular service:

(i) Network optimisation is being carried out to improve the coverage and also new Base Transmission Stations (BTSs) are being commissioned in adjoining areas.

(ii) Adequate number of franchisees are being engaged to market the service.

(iii) Roaming facilities are being extended to all the places within the country.

(iv) Prepaid service is proposed to be started soon.

BSNL has introduced cellular service in Patna,Hazipur, Ara, Bihar Shariff, Rajgir and Barh cities of Bihar so far.They have also taken measures to bring stability to the system.

(e) & (f): There is no proposal to make incoming calls free on GSM Cellular Network.However, in the case of WLL Limited Mobile Service, the incoming calls are free.

ANNEXURE

Modification in `Dolphin` Cellular Tariff by MTNL effective from 27th June, 2001

	Tariff before 27th June,2001		Tariff from 27th June, 2001
	Plan A	Plan B	
Rental (Rs.)	400	250	375
Air time Outgoing/30 sec. (Rs.)	1.35	1.00	0.70
Airtime Incoming/30 sec. (Rs.)	0.75	0.75	0.70

Pulse rate: 30 sec.